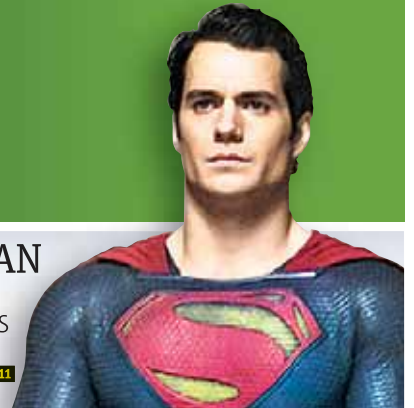


HALIFAX metro



Merry Xmas!

No Metro Wednesday and Thursday but look for our special Boxing Day edition on the 27th!

Ghost of Christmas presents?

Cops release video apparently showing robber stealing gifts from home **PAGE 3**

Into the red

N.S. expected to add \$125M to its debt to maintain roads, schools and other infrastructure **PAGE 4**

MEDIOCREMAN

METRO LOOKS BACK ON THE WORST FILMS OF 2013; AMONG THEM, THIS GUY **PAGE 11**

'Catch your breath and then let's go crazy'



Wendy Friedman, owner of Biscuit General Store, poses for a photo in her downtown retail location on Monday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Retail. Doors reopen Dec. 27, not Dec. 26 as elsewhere in Canada

Provinces on Dec. 26

- **Closed.** Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador

While most Canadians rush to malls on Boxing Day armed with gift cards and Christmas cash, the doors of shopping centres in Nova Scotia will remain locked.

Nova Scotia is one of only a few provinces to keep retail stores closed on Dec. 26.

"I think it says that we place more value on people than dollar bills," Wendy Friedman, owner of Biscuit General Store on Argyle Street, said on Monday. "That's the way I run my business, so I fully support (staying closed)."

Friedman said Boxing Day is a chance to unwind and enjoy the company of family and friends, and that includes people who work in the world of retail.

"It's good to have a couple of days to hunker down and get fed and rested and get sick of everybody," said Friedman with a laugh. "I love being able to let my staff have that time, because we work really hard before Christmas."

"Take a moment, catch your breath and then let's go crazy and have fun and go shopping."

Friedman said her clothing, accessory and giftware boutique isn't losing out on any

revenues by staying closed the extra day.

"We have a great day (on Dec. 27). We have a lineup down the street," said Friedman, whose store has become famous for its Boxing Day sales.

Halifax resident Michelle Allison said she also supports staying closed, as Christmas is supposed to be about spending time with loved ones.

"We don't have much time off with our families, so I think we should just spend it with our families and not shop," she said while sitting with her six-year-old daughter Grace in the packed food court at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Monday.

"I'm shopping now. I want to be done."

Stephani McPhee, who plans on hitting the shops for Boxing Day sales, said she's indifferent about stores being closed a day longer.

"It's good to spend quality time with your family on Christmas," said the 17-year-old. "But people are also excited to go shopping and to spend all the money they get."

ALY THOMSON/METRO

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Holiday shopping

What's open and closed this week

Businesses across the municipality will be operating at reduced schedules this week. Here's what you need to know:

The Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation is reminding people to make their purchases before 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, as stores will not reopen until Dec. 27.

For last-minute gift-getters and Boxing Day shoppers, the Halifax Shopping Centre, Bedford Place Mall and Mic Mac Mall will be open the same hours over the holidays.

The malls are open until 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Halifax Shopping Centre and Mic Mac Mall reopen Dec. 27 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., while Bedford Place Mall opens at 9 a.m.

Most Sobeys and Superstore locations will also close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will not reopen until Dec. 27.

Most Shoppers Drug Mart stores will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas and Boxing days.

Lawtons stores will close for Christmas and will open Boxing Day from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

HRM says there will be no solid-waste collection on Christmas Day.

The curbside collection of garbage, organics and recyclables that would normally happen on Wednesday will happen on Saturday.

Buses will be running on Christmas Day. Metro Transit will be operating on its Sunday/holiday schedule. It will have regular service on Christmas Eve. **METRO**



Halifax police are searching for this man after he allegedly broke into a Dartmouth home and stole Christmas presents. COURTESY HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

Santa, you're supposed to break in and leave gifts ...

Theft. Outraged citizens spread photo of suspect 'like crazy' after gifts, electronics, coins stolen

Violation

"It strikes a personal chord because everybody can relate to that."

Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages

Halifax police are searching for a man who allegedly broke into a Dartmouth home last Thursday, taking wrapped Christmas gifts and other valuables.

Around 4 p.m. on Dec. 19, police say a man returning from work realized his home had been broken into. A review of security camera footage inside the house showed a man breaking into the

Athorpe Drive home around 11:20 a.m.

Police say the man stole a number of wrapped Christmas gifts, electronics and collector coins before leaving the area on foot.

"It's very upsetting for everybody involved," said Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Pierre Bourdages. "(They) were ready for Christmas and now this

guy just comes in and steals that stuff."

The suspect is described as a white man, 20 to 40 years of age, 180 pounds, about six feet tall and with a mole on his right cheek between his mouth and nose.

He was wearing a blue toque with a Boston Red Sox logo, purple hoodie, black jacket with a gray stripe across the chest, blue jeans

and black shoes.

Bourdages said he's sure the family is feeling violated but says people have taken an interest in the story and shared photos of the suspect "like crazy" on social media.

"It strikes a very personal space, so people are upset about this," Bourdages said.

"We have citizens that really care about these kinds of stories."

Police received dozens of tips about the man's identity by Monday afternoon, he said.

Anyone with information about the break-in is asked to call police at 490-5016 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

1 NEWS

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bedfordplacemall.com

Boxing Day SALE

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Target 8am-10pm

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all the presents you
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Cobequid Pass

Man hospitalized after being struck by snowplow

Nova Scotia RCMP say a man was taken to hospital with serious injuries after being hit by a snowplow.

Police say the accident occurred around 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cobequid

Pass toll plaza. They say the plow was clearing the road around the toll booth when it struck a pedestrian.

The victim, a 50-year-old man from New Brunswick, was walking around his truck when he was hit.

Police say he was taken to hospital in Truro with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

The plow driver wasn't hurt. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Pictou County

2 hurt in collision on Highway 104

A section of Highway 104 was shut down for hours in Pictou County after a crash on Monday. RCMP say the accident happened around 2:15 p.m. near Broadway. Two were hurt, but the injuries weren't considered life threatening. **METRO**

Highway 101

MLA pushes for safety barriers

Hants West MLA Chuck Porter is asking the province to install barriers on a section of Highway 101 near Falmouth. "This stretch of highway is extremely dangerous," said Porter, with a fatal accident there just last Thursday. **HANTS JOURNAL**

Truro

Hungry trucker stops to eat, wins a million bucks

The latest \$1-million lottery ticket sold in Truro was purchased by a New Brunswick truck driver.

Over the weekend, it was announced that for the second time in less than a

month, a ticket sold in the town of 12,000 had won the Maxmillions draw.

On Monday, Atlantic Lottery announced the winner was truck driver Larry Saulnier of Moncton, who during a day trip stopped to eat in Truro, and decided to purchase the ticket.

The triumph follows another \$1-million win by a group of nurses dubbed the "Sweet 16" crew. **METRO**

Capital plans add \$125M to N.S. debt

Spending plans released. Big bucks earmarked for schools, bridges, highways and other infrastructure

Nova Scotia's finance minister estimates the province is going to have to add at least \$125 million to its debt to maintain roads, schools and other infrastructure in 2014-15.

Diana Whalen released the province's capital spending plans Monday, with about half of the \$535 million targeted at highways, bridges and other structures, such as dykes, around the province.

The government says the provincial debt stands at almost \$14 billion.

Whalen recently released a budget forecast showing the province has fallen deeply into the red, with a deficit figure of \$481.7 million for 2013-14.

The new Liberal finance minister said she asked officials whether Nova Scotia can afford to replace and repair infrastructure over the



Finance Minister Diana Whalen
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget

The 2014-15 capital budget projection is about \$10 million higher than the most recent forecast of \$525 million for repairs, purchases and replacements in 2013-14.

ing will help stimulate the economy.

There are more than 100 projects planned by the province for the next fiscal year, with most determined by priority lists set by various government departments.

The list includes \$81.5 million for 10 new schools and alterations to 18 others.

Health authorities will receive about \$27.1 million for facility construction and repairs, as well as the replacement of medical equipment and computer upgrades.

The Transportation Department is planning \$250.8 million for work on highways, bridges and other structures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

next few years.

The alternative, she said, would mean crumbling infrastructure and deteriorating buildings.

"If we maintain our spending at that rate we'll be looking after what we've got," she said.

Whalen said the province is optimistic that jobs created by capital spend-



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

A pedestrian shields herself from the rain while passing by a Christmas-themed window display on Spring Garden Road on Monday. Wednesday's Christmas forecast is calling for a mix of sun and cloud with temperatures hitting -5 C.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Suspect sought after shots fired, car stolen



The Quality Inn in Clayton Park. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Police say they don't know what led to an argument between two men in Clayton Park early Monday morning that resulted in gunshots and one of the men stealing the other's car.

Halifax Regional Police responded to a report of shots being fired in the parking lot of the Quality Inn on Parkland Drive around 5:50 a.m.

A 53-year-old man had gotten into an argument with another man he knew,

police said. The 20-year-old suspect assaulted the man and fired several shots, but none hit him.

"It is worrying," said police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages. "It happened ... a couple days before Christmas in a mainly residential area."

Police say the younger man took the victim's yellow Pontiac Aztek, drove away, and has not been found.

The victim went to the

By the numbers

51

The number of gun incidents as of mid-December in HRM, according to Halifax Regional Police. There were 61 in the same time frame last year.

Quality Inn and called police. Bourdages said neither were guests at the hotel.

Bourdages said he doesn't

know how the men knew each other or why the fight started.

The suspect is described as a 20-year-old Middle Eastern man with a thin build, five-foot-10, black hair and brown eyes. He was wearing all dark clothing.

The suspect could be armed, and police say citizens should not approach him. Instead, they should call 911 if they spot him or the vehicle. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**



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Hydro crews work around the clock to get lights on

Ice storm. Hundreds of thousands in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick may still be without power on Christmas Day

A nasty ice storm that left hundreds of thousands without power in Ontario and Quebec tracked through the Maritimes on Monday as authorities worked frantically to clear tree-strewn roadways, restore downed hydro lines and get stranded travellers to their destinations.

Hydro companies in the Greater Toronto Area — which appeared to be the hardest hit by the weather system — warned some residents to brace for the possibility of being without power until Boxing Day or later.

Some neighbourhoods resembled crime scenes with yellow police tape used to cordon off areas where electric wires or large trees had come crashing down over the weekend. Sidewalks around some high rise buildings were also closed off due to the risk of falling ice.

Meanwhile, travellers trying to get home for the holidays continued to face delays and cancellations on airlines and trains.

Environment Canada said the storm had hit Eastern Canada hard.

"It was a mighty blow," senior climatologist David Phillips told The Canadian Press. "It came at a really difficult time for people travelling and doing last-minute shopping."



A crew subcontracted to assist with restoring power following the ice storm in Toronto works on a power line on Monday. MATTHEW SHERWOOD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The weather agency said the system had turned particularly vicious thanks to a combination of warm air from Texas colliding with cold air over Canada to create a draw-out period of freezing rain.

"We had freezing rain from south of London, all the way through to Ottawa and Montreal and southern Quebec and now today to central and southern New Brunswick, all of P.E.I. and most of Nova Scotia," said Phillips.

"The geographical reach of this nasty, nasty storm is really affecting millions of Canadians in Eastern Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recovery efforts

'Winning the war'

"The prudent thing now is to plan for the worst and hope for the best," said Toronto Hydro CEO Anthony Haines, whose utility had some 215,000 customers without power Monday afternoon, down from more than 300,000 at the peak of the outage.

Haines said there were some communities where

crews hadn't been able to get into yet as they triaged the power outage situation, prioritizing hospitals, water treatment plants and "feeders," which serve thousands of customers.

He did suggest, however, that recovery efforts appeared to be turning a corner.

"I feel that we're now winning the war, we're able to restore more than is breaking behind us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sparrows sit on ice-covered branches in Mississauga, Ont., on Monday. J.P. MOCZULSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power outages

- Though some 215,000 customers in the Greater Toronto Area were still without power, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford insisted Monday that Canada's largest city was not in a state of emergency.

- Elsewhere in Ontario, Power Stream, which serves Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan among other communities, reported 16,300 customers were still down.

- Meanwhile, Hydro One — which serves 1.3 million customers in Ontario communities that include Guelph, Peterborough and Walkerton — said more than 112,000 customers were still without power in smaller towns and rural areas.

- In Quebec, nearly 45,000 customers remained without power, largely in the province's Eastern Townships, as technicians worked to fix electricity lines and other equipment damaged by the storm.

- In New Brunswick, the freezing rain that continued to fall Monday hampered efforts to restore power to thousands of customers in the province's southwest. By mid afternoon, NB Power said more than 21,000 customers were without power.

Ammolite. Canadian gem considered a national treasure stolen in heist

Police in Vancouver are looking for a rare gemstone stolen early last Friday morning in a robbery in the city's Gastown district. The front window of Rocks and Gems Canada was smashed Dec. 20 and police say the crook made off with the opal-like gem, ammolite, which is worth \$500,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ammolite THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heart health. Canadians 'need to do a lot better' to reduce heart-attack risk

Just one in 10 Canadians have ideal cardiovascular health, according to a new study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Even 50 per cent of children scored poorly in the groundbreaking study, which shows that the majority of the population needs to adopt a healthier lifestyle or

risk cardiovascular disease — the second-leading cause of death in the country.

"The main message is that we need to do a lot better in terms of heart health if we want to reduce the incidence of heart attack or stroke occurring in Canada," says senior author Dr. Jack Tu.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Apollo 8. Astronaut relives spacecraft's 1968 Christmas Eve broadcast

An astronaut who was aboard the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon is marking the mission's 45th anniversary in front of a piece of the actual spacecraft.

Retired Capt. James Lovell Jr. re-enacted the Apollo 8's live Christmas Eve broadcast from 1968. During that broadcast, astronauts read verses of Gen-

esis from the Bible.

On Monday, Lovell and several high school students took turns reading in front of an Apollo 8 module that's housed at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

Lovell says they chose Genesis because it's central to three religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Chadian forces wound at least two in drive-by

Young men react after their friend was badly injured by passing Chadian troops during a protest outside M'Poko Airport in Bangui, Central African Republic, on Monday. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered to protest Chadian forces and express support for French troops and other regional African forces. At least two people were wounded as pickups of Chadian soldiers sped through the crowd firing off several rounds. REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria's president responds to allegations

Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan is challenging a prominent critic to prove allegations of corruption and that he is training a death squad to kill enemies.

President Goodluck Jonathan, in a letter posted on his special adviser's website Monday, did not address charges that he is shielding a party financier indicted for drug trafficking in the United States and

that drug barons are influencing politicians.

Jonathan said he has asked security agencies and the government-funded National Commission for Human Rights to investigate ex-president Olusegun Obasanjo's suggestion that he is training a squad to assassinate some of the more than 1,000 alleged enemies on a hit list.

Jonathan's letter responds

to criminal and treasonous allegations made by Obasanjo, his former mentor. It's the most comprehensive accounting of his government ever provided by Jonathan, who has governed since the end of 2009, yet still sidesteps difficult questions.

Nigeria's leader barely touched on the issue of the indicted Buruji Kashamu, saying the man had already responded himself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pussy Riot is free, but say it's not a victory

'This is a hoax and a PR move.' Band members say their release is a 'cosmetic measure,' call for ban on Olympics

Two members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot walked free Monday, criticizing the amnesty measure that released them as a publicity stunt, with one calling for a boycott of the Winter Olympics to protest Russia's human rights record.

Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova were granted amnesty last week in a move largely viewed as the Kremlin's attempt to soothe criticism of Russia's human-rights record before the Games in Sochi in February.

"I'm calling for a boycott of the Olympic Games," Tolokonnikova said. "What is happening today — releasing people just a few months before their term expires — is a cosmetic measure."

Another member of the band, Yekaterina Samutsevich, was previously released on a suspended sentence. All three were found guilty of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred and sentenced to two years in prison for a guerrilla performance at Moscow's main cathedral in March 2012.



Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, the third member of Russian punk band Pussy Riot to be released from custody following an amnesty law passed by parliament, leaves prison in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, on Monday. TATYANA VISHNEVSKAYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The band members said their protest was meant to highlight their concern about increasingly close ties between the state and the church.

Russia's parliament passed the amnesty bill last week, allowing the release of thousands of inmates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reputed Montreal mob boss Rizzuto is dead

Vito Rizzuto, the reputed head of the Montreal Mafia who built a powerful criminal organization with international tentacles, died in hospital Monday.

Rizzuto, 67, passed away of natural causes, said Maude Hebert-Chaput of Montreal's Sacre-Coeur Hospital.

His death raises questions about the future of the Rizzuto clan's decades-old empire, which was crippled by his 2006 extradition to the United States.

Rizzuto was arrested by

Canadian authorities in 2004 and extradited two years later to the U.S., where he was convicted for his role in the 1981 murder of three Bonanno crime-family members in New York City.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, minus time served while awaiting extradition.

Following his October 2012 release, Rizzuto returned to Canada to a group of family and friends whose ranks had thinned considerably. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Vito Rizzuto
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

France

Train carrying nuclear waste derails

French authorities say a train carrying nuclear waste has derailed in a Paris suburb, but no leaks, injuries or other problems have been reported.

An official with the national fire service says experts carried out radiological tests after the incident Monday in Drancy, and found no leaks. The official said the train went about 50 centimetres off the rails.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Floods, mudslides kill at least 20

Civil defence officials say floods and mudslides caused by heavy downpours have killed at least 20 people and forced more than 40,000 to leave their homes in Brazil.

The civil defence department of Minas Gerais state said Monday that 14 people died there in floodwaters or mudslides. The civil defence department in Espirito Santo state says another six people were killed there and about 40,150 people were forced from their homes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesia

Official closes airport after he's denied boarding

The Indonesian government has warned a district chief after he forced an eastern airport to close temporarily because he failed to get a ticket on a fully booked flight, officials said Monday.

Marianus Sae, chief of Ngada district in East Nusa Tenggara province, ordered dozens of city security officers to block the runway of Turarelo airport on Flores island on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Regina. Generous cops donate \$415 plus toys to a family hit by thieves

Police in Regina saved the day for a family whose presents were stolen in a break-in.

Thieves broke into the home of a family with three children last week, taking all the family's Christmas presents and a little girl's piggy bank to boot.

Police were called and one of the men in blue, Const. Brandon Boon, saw what happened and decided to do something.

So he passed the hat among his colleagues, and pulled together \$415 in cash, a snow globe, and more than eight kilograms of chocolate.

The Regina Police Association, the officers' union, donated some children's toys as well.

On Saturday, the officers presented the gifts to the family.

Police spokesman Les Par-

Compassion in blue

"They do see a lot of rough things ... It helps make them feel better to do a little good."

Regina police spokesman Les Parker

ker says it's just one of many good deeds officers have done over the year.

"I spoke to just two of our members and they gave me a huge list of anecdotes of the type of stuff that happens at Christmas, and year-round," he said.

Parker listed off just a few, including giving gift baskets to seniors, adopting families and manning the Salvation Army's kettles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jailed in United Arab Emirates for comedy

Satirical video. Eight people, including an American, sentenced to up to a year for 'defaming the image' of UAE society

A court in the United Arab Emirates sentenced eight people, including an American, to up to a year in prison Monday after being convicted in connection with a satirical video about youth culture in Dubai.

The video they produced and uploaded to the Internet was a spoof documentary of would-be "gangsta" youth in the Gulf Arab nation. The state-owned daily The National said they were accused of "defaming the image of United Arab Emirates society abroad." Supporters reported that they were charged under a 2012 cyber-crimes law.

Shezanne Cassim, a 29-year-old U.S. citizen from Woodbury, Minn., became the public face of the defendants after his family launched an effort to publicize his months-long incarceration following his arrest in April.

Cassim, who was born in Sri Lanka and moved to Dubai for work after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 2006, was sentenced Monday to a year in prison followed by deportation and received a \$2,725 fine.

Two Indians received similar sentences, while two Emirati brothers were sen-



Shezanne Cassim of Minnesota, sentenced to jail Monday for humour crime. COURTESY SHERVON CASSIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tenced to eight months. A third brother was pardoned.

Three others, a Canadian, Briton and an American, were convicted and sentenced in absentia to the penalties given to the other foreigners. They have never been detained and so are unlikely to serve their sentences. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not so funny?

The case has drawn attention from celebrity comedians in the U.S.

- The comedy video website Funny or Die,

co-founded by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, posted a video earlier this month to raise awareness about Cassim's situation.

'Loud and dirty'

Buzzard woes hit small town in Virginia

A Virginia town is looking for ways to get migrating buzzards to buzz off.

This year, nearly 100 vultures landed in the Gladetown area of Vinton. Town manager Chris Lawrence says the town may kill one. The remains would be hung near the others, which would cause them to disperse, as they don't like to be around their own dead.

Lawrence also said the birds are "loud and dirty," but that the town tries to co-exist with nature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Voyeurism charge

Woman says Tom peeped under bathroom stall

Police have charged a man with voyeurism at a bathroom of a public library in southwest Edmonton.

It's alleged a man followed a woman into the bathroom of the Lois Hole Library in Callingwood on Dec. 7.

The woman alleges the man was on the floor of an adjacent stall, looking up at her.

When she began yelling at him, he fled.

Antonio Petraglia, 47, has been charged with voyeurism.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sharability



easy

hard

Market endorses Apple deal with China Mobile

Fighting back. Alliance is tech giant's latest attempt to gain smartphone-market share in world's most populous country

Apple's stock rose 3 per cent in morning trading on Monday, a day after the company announced a long-anticipated agreement to bring the iPhone to China Mobile, the world's biggest phone company.

The deal has the potential to boost iPhone sales in a market where Apple Inc. faces intense competition. But even with China Mobile Ltd.'s vast state-owned network, marketing power



A woman using a phone walks past Apple's logo near its retail outlet in Beijing Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and more than 750 million mobile accounts, the iPhone has enormous challenges to overcome in the world's most populous nation.

Apple's smartphone is already available in China

through two smaller carriers, and although it is popular with well-heeled Chinese customers, the iPhone is losing market share to lower-priced smartphones from Samsung and local brands.

The iPhone 5S and 5C will go on sale in Apple and China Mobile stores beginning Friday, Jan. 17. China Mobile customers can register for phones starting Wednesday.

The companies didn't announce pricing or the terms of the agreement.

The deal comes a month before China's Lunar New Year holiday in late January, a big gift-buying season. That "will provide an immediate boost to Apple's share in China," said analyst Nicole Peng of Canalys, a research firm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Viva Las Vegas turnin' day into Christmastime

Brothers Joaquin, left, and Sebastian visit with the Red Queen during the third-annual Winter in Venice event at the Venetian hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip Dec. 5. Las Vegas casinos have begun staging elaborate Christmas events in recent years to attract tourists during the slow winter months. HANNAH DREIER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bordeaux vineyard

Chinese tycoon, son die in aircraft crash in France

A Chinese businessman, his 12-year-old son and two other people died in a helicopter crash as they toured Bordeaux vineyards he had recently purchased, French authorities said Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHRISTMAS BABY

I'm going to take a moment to abuse my power as a newspaper columnist and send a very Happy Birthday shout-out to my boyfriend. Yes, my poor significant other has a dreaded Christmas Eve birthday. Even his name — Christopher — echoes the omnipresent holiday that falls on his special day.

Often overlooked and forgotten during the busy holiday season, he has quite a few childhood stories of birthdays spent alone at the rink and forced "half-birthday" celebrations in June that always seemed a bit lackluster.

He is not alone in his misery. Many Capricorn babies are quite vocal about their ill-timed birthdates and the dreaded Birthday-Christmas combo gifts. Why is it that a joint gift would be a complete outrage for an individual born in June but it's totally justifiable for anyone afflicted with a December 25th adjacent birthdate?

There are even parenting blogs dedicated to helping



SHE SAYS
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

couples avoid conceiving a baby with a holiday due date. In case you're wondering, it's best to avoid the bedroom around the end of March if you want to skip a Christmastime delivery.

I am blessed with a mid-August birthday which always meant pool parties with friends and sun-kissed picnics in the park. I recognize how fortunate I am — I have never received a tree ornament as a birthday gift — and as such, I believe that all late December babies are fully entitled to their self-righteous whining. Sulk away Christmas babies! Because regardless of whether or not you choose to celebrate, this eternally merry and bright holiday is impossible to ignore.

Competing with Christmas is not an option and so yuletide birthdays will inevitably become an afterthought. Birthday gifts are wrapped in snowman-print paper, tinsel garlands adorn the hallways instead of balloons and banners,

and an abundance of gingerbread cookies and candy canes are placed around the house so that requesting an actual birthday cake seems out of the question.

Worse still is the absence of people willing and available to celebrate your special day. Absentee friends are out of town or suffering from holiday party fatigue. Even those high school acquaintances you never speak to are too distracted to remember to leave an obligatory 'Happy Birthday' Facebook wall post.

Of course there are some perks: Everyone is already in a celebratory mood, you'll probably have the day off work or school, and you'll be surrounded by all of your family (this may or may not be a good thing). If you're very lucky, perhaps some sympathetic friends and family will try to overcompensate with some extra special attention.

But perhaps we can all take a little time this holiday season to do our part to make the neglected birthday boys and girls feel extra special. And please, no combo gifts.

Follow Jessica Napier on
Twitter @MetroSheSays



ZOOM

Photog captures icy bear stare



COURTESY PAUL SOUDERS/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO CONTEST

Polar bear pic wins top award

An eerie picture of a polar bear lurking beneath melting sea ice has won the grand prize of the 2013 National Geographic Photo Contest.

Seattle-based photographer Paul Souders captured this striking image last year in Hudson Bay, as the setting midnight sun glowed red from the smoke of distant fires. **METRO**

Q and A

'Hasn't been done before'



PAUL SOUDERS
Wildlife and travel
photographer, 52,
based in Seattle,
Wash.

How did this photograph come about?

In July last year, I travelled to Churchill, Man., and in

my inflatable zodiac boat I found one bear. She swam up to an iceberg, ducked under and stayed underwater for several seconds. She hung there, just below the surface, watching me, then came up for another breath before swimming away.

The polar bear looks menacing yet menacing. How does she seem to you?

It's so spooky, knowing that the bear was peering back at me, so watchful and curious. It really feels like a moment of communion and trust for me.

Why do you think it caught the judges' eyes?

It's pretty tough to create a picture that hasn't been done before, and I think maybe this is one of them.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online



ISTOCKIMAGES

Maybe you want to save the environment. Maybe you just want to save time. Or maybe it's Christmas Eve and you forgot to send your mother a card. No matter your reason, Metro has you covered with a few ways to use social media as a substitute for a holiday card.

Facebook:

The world's most popular social media site is actually pretty full-featured when it comes to disseminating holiday cheer. You can craft a simple status update, tag your friends and family in a post, or upload and share a Christmas-themed photo album.

this simple app lets you superimpose text onto Instagram shots. Grandma is sure to love a selfie captioned with "Season's Greetings!"

Touchnote.com:

If you just can't go without the tactile sensation of a tacky Christmas card, consider Touchnote. The site lets you make a card using their online editor and then actually mails it for you to. No more licking stamps!

Instaquote:

Available for both iOS and Android,

Comments

RE: Nova Scotia Still Bucking Boxing Day Trend By Keeping Stores Closed On Dec. 26, published online Dec. 23

A government shouldn't even have any say on when a business can open or not. We live in a free country.

Mythos88 posted to metronews.ca

Good for N.S. and let's keep it up. Retail workers already get so few real holiday days (because most so called 'holidays' only benefit students/teachers and certain government workers) to spend with their families, now heaven forbid greedy people might have to, gasp, wait two days to buy their Boxing Day sales items!

Jillian posted to metronews.ca

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Bruce Willis wallops the legacy of John McClane for a quick paycheck in *A Good Way to Die Hard*. CONTRIBUTED

The worst of film in 2013

Forgettable fare.
In a year of great films, there were still plenty of stinkers



Yesterday we looked at some of the best films of 2013. Today, to balance out that bright note, we look at some of the dark spots of 2014.

Man of Steel

While there may have been many technically worse films this year, Zack Snyder's bomb-

astic, tone-deaf update on Superman fails on a spectacularly higher level. Consider it a weighted grade. Moralizing, wanton destruction and clumsy product placement are a tough mix.

A Good Way to Die Hard

Bruce Willis further tarnishes the legacy of John McClane with this loud and un-fun entry that's a *Die Hard* film in name only. Maybe he's squinting the whole time because he can't bear to look at what he's creating.

Safe Haven

Romance-loving audiences deserve better than this poorly executed dreck from

the mind of bestseller Nicholas Sparks. From the wooden acting to the contrived plot to the limping pacing, this would've seemed bad as a Lifetime movie.

Free Birds

Kids' movies generally get more of a pass critically, but some things we can't let slide. Children deserve better than this odd, clumsy tale of turkeys stealing a time machine to change the menu at the first Thanksgiving.

The Last Stand

The kitschy 1980s action tropes that made Arnold Schwarzenegger a star just don't work anymore, as the former Califor-

nia governor painfully learned when no one showed up to see his first starring vehicle since returning to acting. Bizarre character actor Peter Stormare attempting a Texas accent almost makes it worth enduring. Almost.

The Host

There's a certain amount of satisfaction to be taken in watching *Twilight* guru Stephenie Meyer's attempt at a follow-up franchise crash and burn, but it's a shame it had to involve the lovely Saoirse Ronan. Still, she should come out of this fine.

Delivery Man

Listen, if Vince Vaughn isn't go-

ing to bother showing up for his films anymore, why should we? Paying to watch a haggard movie star sleepwalk through scenes doesn't sound like very much fun.

Stand Up Guys

Al Pacino and Christopher Walken as aging wiseguys felt like a throwback itself in all the wrong ways. And in a year dispiritingly full of signs of creeping chauvinism and misogyny, this was one of the worst offenders.

Romeo and Juliet

Julian Fellowes' take on Shakespeare's classic teens at least gave audiences a new appreciation for Baz Luhrmann.

Comedy

Grudge Match

Director. Peter Segal

Stars. Robert De Niro



Rocky or Raging Bull, who would prevail in a boxing match? That's the question asked in *Grudge Match*. Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone star as retired Pittsburgh boxers who get the chance to step back in the ring to settle a three decade old grudge and make "Kardashian sex tape" kind of money. This is a new story, occasionally funny and touching by times, but with lots of elements borrowed from other classic movies.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography/Comedy

The Wolf of Wall Street

Director. Martin Scorsese

Stars. Leonardo DiCaprio



Set during Wall Street's cocaine and hookers era, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is based on real life brokers Jordan Belfort (Leonard DiCaprio) and Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill), who snorted and scammed their way to the top, only to become the subject of an FBI investigation into financial corruption. With its fourth wall breaking narration, scandalous set pieces and absurd antics this is a wild cinematic experience.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography/Drama

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Director. Justin Chadwick

Stars. Idris Elba, Naomie Harris



Nelson Mandela's life is so astonishing even Hollywood cannot seem to bring its incredulity to life. Based on his autobiography, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* attempts to cram the subject's lifetime battle against apartheid into 139 minutes and the result only dilutes the measure of the late South African President's story. It winds up more encyclopedic than epic.

STEVE GOW

Mandela. Film takes tough look at Winnie

As it runs down the life of late anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, the new film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* also heavily features his polarizing ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

British actress Naomie Harris, who plays the scandal-plagued Madikizela-Mandela, says she thinks the South African activist "is misconstrued in a lot of ways" and the film "will help to address that."

"I'm not making excuses for any of the heinous things that Winnie is accused of, but I think what this film helps to do is to explain and bring greater understanding about why she became the woman that she became, which is really important," she said in an interview

at September's Toronto International Film Festival.

"There's duality in her personality, because on the one hand, yes, she did advocate necklacing and these horrific things during the apartheid regime. But on the other hand, she is ... the woman who kept Mandela's name alive while he was in prison for 27 years. And really, if it wasn't for her doing that, then we might all have forgotten about Mandela. She also was so active with the youth, particularly in Soweto and the anti-apartheid movement there. (It) was a violent uprising largely, in Soweto, but it was also pivotal as well to dismantling apartheid."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Studio puts the brakes on Fast & Furious sequel in wake of tragedy

Universal Pictures has delayed the release of Fast & Furious 7 for almost a year following the death of star Paul Walker.

The studio announced Monday that the Fast & Furious sequel will be released in April 2015, instead of July next year. Shooting on the film was about halfway finished when the 40-year-old Walker died in a car crash outside of Los Angeles. Walker still will appear in the film, though Universal has not said exactly how it will handle his unfinished performance.

Co-star Vin Diesel first posted the news on Facebook, telling his fans that, "He'd want you to know first."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miley beckons us into her boudoir, but do we really want to be there?

Have you guys seen this clip that's going around from Miley's new music video for her song Adore You?

If you haven't, because, I guess, you don't have a google alert set up for "Miley Cyrus" like I do, here's the relevant info: It features grainy, sex tape-esque foot-

age of Miley, er, pleasuring herself.

I guess we now have the answer to the age-old question "where does one in eternal pursuit of shock value and press go, after humping a foam finger while practically naked onstage?" **METRO**



Twitter



@robdelaney

Just saw a Hasidic man & 2 Asian girls laugh at a dog knocking over a garbage can so don't even act like peace isn't possible guys.



@Brittanysnow

I bet cats really hate the fact that they can't hashtag #yolo



@RebelWilson

All this reminds me of when I got kicked out of an 'Open House' Pretty Woman style last weekend coz the broker thought I couldn't afford it

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Holidays in Hollywood

Looks like Duck Dynasty won't be without a home

PAT HEALY

Metro World News

Aw, here's a heartwarming story just in time for the holidays. Thanks to Hunt Channel — a Christian television network that markets almost exclusively in reality shows about Bible-lovin', gun-totin' folks who kill defenseless creatures for sport — Duck Dynasty will not go homeless if A&E decides to drop it on its redneck butt.

A lot of people are calling for the network to pull the plug on Duck Dynasty — surprisingly one of the highest-rated reality shows of all time (proof, I think, of the rapid decline of our intelligence as a society thanks to the Internet and sexting and global warming or whatever) — after patriarch in charge Phil Robertson's recent eloquent musings on homosexuality. And, apparently, the other Duck Dynasty cast members are among those calling for



the show to be yanked.

Robertson's brood of fellow people who like to make the duckies go bye-bye with the boom boom stick have his back, and have recently gone on record saying that they don't want to do the show without him.

Fortunately, the Hunt Channel is making it their business to ensure that they won't have to. A Christmas miracle!

According to a TMZ report, Hunt channel owner Merrill Sport thinks that A&E should "put on their big boy pants" and support the cast of Duck Dynasty for be-

ing the unapologetic bigots they are. Further, Sport is more than happy to put on his own pair of big kid trousers and air the show himself. Because, at Hunt Channel, he says, "we don't censor our personalities."

Meaning, I guess, Hunt Channel lets their people spit as much hateful bile as they want. First Amendment and whatnot. Give them liberty or give them death! (Give them either, I could care less. But first, maybe, give them some teeth and a world view that isn't rooted in ancient mythology or idiocy.)

Sidney Labrador Retriever Mix

3.5 year old Sidney is a beautiful girl whose inquisitive brown eyes twinkle like Santa's. It's hard to believe she was found stray. Friendly and affectionate, she loves attention and being petted. Sidney enjoys going for long walks and would make a great hiking companion. A game of fetch is also high on her list of favorite things. A sweet gentle soul, Sidney is quite timid and needs a quiet adult-only home where she's your only pet. Her Christmas wish is to find a caring 'forever' home where she feels safe and appreciated. Sidney's gift to you will be a lifetime of love. Please visit the shelter to meet her today.



For more information on Sidney and other adoptable furry friends, visit www.pas.spcans.ca or contact the Nova Scotia SPCA Provincial Animal Shelter at 468-7877 or info@pas.spcans.ca

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Healthy highs and lows this year

In our look back at 2013: HIV cures, HIV scares and how a pet can save your life

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News



The next-gen condom couldn't have come sooner. THINKSTOCK

LOW: U.S. porn industry shuts down three times due to HIV scare

Debbie didn't do many people this year. Numerous HIV-positive test results in the U.S. porn industry forced a moratorium on production while all potentially infected performers were re-tested for the virus. Current regulations require porn stars to be tested every 14 days in the U.S., limiting the number of people who could be exposed. Still, this year's scares lead many to call for the use of condoms on set, which has led to much debate.

HIGH: The next-generation condom

No glove, no love may be the motto but many men, particularly in developing countries, remain adverse to the prophylactics. To encourage use, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offered \$100,000 to anyone that could come up with the next evolution of the male condom, with up to \$1 million for additional research. Eleven ideas won the first-round funding, including a condom made out of bovine tendons or fish skin and a couple versions made out of a crystallized form of carbon called graphene that can conduct heat.

HIGH: Baby "cured" of HIV

While a cure for HIV and AIDS still remains elusive, doctors in Mississippi claimed to have eradicated the HIV virus from a baby by giving her a three-drug regiment within 30 hours of her birth. The mother of the child had not received any pre-natal treatment to prevent transmission, and a blood test had determined that the child was HIV positive at the time of birth. The child, who was two and a half years old at the time of the March announcement, no longer has any traces of the HIV virus in her blood.

HIGH: Face transplants

The practice of transplanting another person's face onto a patient has been around for a few years — and not just on Nip/Tuck.

This year, however, marked many improvements in the field.

Polish doctors claimed to complete the world's fastest face transplant — a 27-hour procedure just three weeks after the patient's accident.

Meanwhile, several patients in the U.S. who received facial transplants in 2012 were shown to have improved blood flow, more blood vessel pathways and improved facial sensation just one year later.

LOW: Emergency birth control doesn't work ... sometimes

European pharmaceutical regulators approved a warning label change that would alert users of Norlevo (levonorgestrel) that it loses potency for women over 165 pounds and does not work in women over 176 pounds. The morning-after pill is a form of emergency birth control that was supposed to prevent pregnancy within 72 hours after having unprotected sexual intercourse. However, with the weight limits, it seems many women may not be able to use it.

HIGH: A big year for ART

Across the world, more than 5 million screaming bundles of joy are born to people who may otherwise never have the experience of having a child without fertility treatments. The International Committee for the Monitoring of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ICMART), who announced the landmark number in October, noted that the first ART baby was born in 1978 using in vitro fertilization. However, more than half of the 5 million ART babies have been born in just the last six years, meaning the technology is improving.



HIGH: Get a pet, save your life

If you need another reason to convince yourself to get a pet, the American Heart Association confirmed what was once an old wives' tale: that having a pet was linked to lower heart disease, lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol levels and lower levels of obesity. Owning a dog was particularly shown to lower cardiovascular risk, maybe because dogs force you to get off your couch and walk them.

LOW: Heroin-like drug spreads overseas

For years, Russia has battled a problem with krokodil or desomorphine, an opioid drug in the same family as heroin and oxycodone. It is more potent than morphine, and is easily made with codeine, paint thinner, gasoline and other over-the-counter products. It also is so toxic that it causes flesh to rot off the user's bones, and the average abuser dies two to three years after beginning to use. Now, evidence shows the drug is spreading across the world, with the first cases reported in the U.S. in September.

3
THE

Lean pork tenderloin gets a flavour boost from prosciutto, mushrooms and fresh herbs

My choice for an elegant holiday dinner? It's hard to beat a roast, and more often than not my pick is a lean and moist pork tenderloin.

But let's face it, as much as we want to be healthy, there is such a thing as a roast that is too lean. A lack of fat often means a lack of flavour. So how to make up this deficit? With plenty of high-flavour ingredients such as prosciutto, fresh herbs, mushrooms and wine.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Cut down through each tenderloin lengthwise so that you can open it up like a book, but do not cut all the way through. Sprinkle water on the cutting board under the tenderloin and sprinkle a little water on top of the tenderloin (this will help prevent the meat from tearing when you pound it). Cover the tenderloin with plastic wrap and pound the meat using a meat mallet or rolling pin until it is about 1/2-inch thick.

Double Pork Roast with Mushroom Marsala Sauce



This recipe serves six. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2. Sprinkle half the rosemary and thyme leaves all over the inside of each butterflied and pounded pork tenderloin and spread the prosciutto evenly in one layer over the herbs. Beginning with the long end, roll up the tenderloin tightly, tuck-

ing in the ends (as you would a burrito). Use kitchen twine to tie the roll in a bundle, tying it every 2 inches.

3. In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil. Season the pork lightly on all sides

with salt and pepper, then add it to the skillet. Sear until golden brown on all sides. Transfer the pork to a shallow baking pan, then roast on the oven's middle shelf until the centre reaches 145 F, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the pork from the oven and cover

Ingredients

- 2 pork tenderloin roasts (3/4 to 1 lb each), trimmed of all fat
- 2 tbsp packed fresh rosemary leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp packed fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- 4 oz thinly sliced prosciutto
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped shallots or onion
- 1/2 lb mushrooms (cremini, white button, shiitake, oyster or a mix), trimmed and sliced
- 1/2 cup dry Marsala wine
- 1 1/4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour

medium heat. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil and the shallots and cook, stirring, until the shallots are golden. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring often, until the mushrooms give off all their liquid and are lightly browned.

5. Add the Marsala and simmer until almost all of it is reduced. Add 1 cup of the chicken broth and bring back to a boil. In a small bowl whisk the remaining 1/4 cup of chicken broth with the flour. Add the flour mixture to the skillet in a stream while whisking and simmer for 2 minutes. Add any juices that have accumulated from the resting pork to the sauce.

6. Slice the pork crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices. Transfer several slices to each of 6 serving plates. Spoon some of the mushroom sauce over each serving.

SARA MOULTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

loosely with foil.

4. Meanwhile, make the sauce. Return the skillet to

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Five steps to becoming a millionaire

Entrepreneurship. Kim Kaupe describes how to go it alone, even if you don't have start-up cash or a business background

EMILY
LAURENCE

Metro World News

Three years ago, 28-year-old Kim Kaupe quit her job to pursue a business idea she brainstormed with her co-founder. Now, she's the head of multi-million dollar company ZinePak. Like many people who have a gem of an idea, Kaupe didn't have a business background or any start-up money. Still, she went for it. Kaupe shares her tips with us so you can pursue your own great idea.

1. Find a hole in the market-place

"I worked at Brides magazine for two years and then got a job at an ad agency. One of my co-workers at the agency used to work at Sony Records. We hatched this idea of putting magazines and music together, and out came ZinePak. We wanted to create special packages for fans. It was something that didn't exist before."

2. Partner with someone who

Quoted

"If you have an idea, tell everyone you can. You never know who that person might know."

Kim Kaupe, co-founder of ZinePak

has strengths you lack

"My business partner and I fit together perfectly because one of us has the strengths that the other person doesn't. Find someone you gel with and shares your views, but also brings a unique perspective."

3. Tell everyone your idea

"There's this common misconception that when you come up with a great idea, you have to keep it to yourself because someone will steal it. It's really the opposite. If you have an idea, tell everyone you can. You never know who that person might know. Or, they could have a way for you to improve your idea that you haven't thought of. We changed our entire product based on a suggestion a random customer emailed us. It pays to listen — literally."

4. If you're not an expert, find people who are

"Neither my partner nor I had a background in business. Going to meet-ups was essential for



Kim Kaupe, co-founder of ZinePak, suggests attending small-business meetups and finding ways to keep your overhead low. CONTRIBUTED

growing our business. There are meet-ups for everything: small business owner meet-ups, tech meet-ups, entrepreneur meet-ups... When I first started out, I thought I was the only person in the world who faced certain problems. But chances are, most other entre-

preneurs that you talk to have wanted to throw their Quickbooks out the window too and might have a great suggestion that can help you. Whatever you need to learn how to do that you can't Google, there's someone out there who can help you."

5. Keep your overhead low

"The first year, my business partner and I worked from home using only our computers, cellphones and brains. It was just us hustling and cold calling, saying 'Let us make this awesome product for you.' The less supplies

you have to buy, the more money you'll make. Think, do you really need a warehouse or paper printing machine? Chances are there's a company out there who it's cheaper to pay than renting space or buying all the materials yourself."

How to eat, drink and stay healthy this holiday

Seasonal hazards.

Between overindulging and contracting colds, this time of year can take a toll on your vigor

The holidays are a time to burn your candles at both ends, but you have to be careful to not flame out. The pressure created by a combination of social events, family get-togethers, shopping and financial stress can easily weaken or overwhelm your immune system.

Eating

Make sure you neither eat too much, nor too little. Overindulging will not only put on a few extra holiday pounds, but makes you more likely to develop esophageal reflux from a distended stomach at bedtime. This overnight trickle of stomach acid bubbling up into the back of your



Peace yourself: try to have a glass of water for each glass of alcohol. ISTOCK

throat while lying flat in bed can not only cause heartburn but may also lead to a sore throat or dry cough.

This is not only a nuisance that is often mistaken for an upper respiratory infection (common cold), but may actually increase your odds of

getting a sinus infection or bronchitis by decreasing your resistance.

Eating too little may make you more likely to get intoxicated, as the alcohol in a glass of holiday cheer is absorbed much more quickly from an empty stomach.

Drinking

With so many social obligations and reasons to celebrate, there is ample opportunity to drink alcohol on a daily basis — and lots of it. "Everything in moderation" should be your motto. Try to drink a glass of water with each alcoholic beverage (one for one). No matter your sex, weight or choice of adult beverage, if you have two or more drinks in under two hours, you will likely be impaired.

Don't drink and drive, and don't let your friends drink and drive. Work out a designated driver in advance with friends, take a taxi or public transportation and don't be afraid to ask if you can sleep over at your host's or friend's home if driving under the influence is your only other option. Drinking coffee will not sober you up.

Being healthy

The 2013-14 influenza sea-

son has officially arrived in North America and there are any variety of cold viruses around that have been making people miserable with sore throats, nasal congestion and coughs. Shaking hands,

kissing under the mistletoe and travelling on a plane can all spread illness rapidly. Get a flu shot, wash your hands frequently, keep your hands away from your face and blow kisses where you can. METRO

Weeknights at 6 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

TOP SIX @ 6

- 6 Beyoncé XO
- 5 John Newman Love Me Again
- 4 Hedley Anything
- 3 Lady Gaga Do What U Want
- 2 Pitbull ft Ke\$ha Timber
- 1 Eminem ft Rihanna The Monster

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Huskies still savouring journey to hockey gold

Universiade. It took round-robin loss for Team Canada to put their championship hopes into perspective



ANDREW RANKIN
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Cory Tanaka had doubts that Team Canada could win gold in Italy.

The Saint Mary's Huskies forward was among the 21 AUS all-stars that got off to an explosive start at the Winter Universiade men's hockey championship, steamrolling Japan and Ukraine by a combined score of 23-1 in their opening round-robin games.

But they were facing the world's best university hockey players.

On Dec. 15, in their final preliminary-round match, Tanaka and Co. were promptly stunned by a 4-2 loss at the hands of tournament favourite Kazakhstan.

But Tanaka's disappointment turned to optimism, witnessing his teammates' resolve in the face of abrupt adversity.

"You felt it, just the way we got together and everyone just really believed that we had the skill and the ability to be better and we had this faith and trust in each other that I didn't have before," said Tanaka.

That bond would be tested in last Wednesday's quarter-finals, in which the Canucks faced Slovakia. Canada dominated in a 6-0 victory, and then two days later edged the Russians, another tournament favourite, 2-1.



Team Canada celebrates their gold medal win at the Winter Universiade men's hockey championship on Sunday. CONTRIBUTED



Huskies forward Cory Tanaka
COURTESY CIS

Naturally, Saturday's gold medal game was a rematch: Canada vs. Kazakhstan.



Huskies captain Lucas Bloodoff
COURTESY CIS

Tanaka went into the battle with three of his Huskies teammates, goalie Anthony Peters,

Michael D'Orazio and St Mary's captain Lucas Bloodoff, not to mention Dalhousie Tigers' Pierre Vandall.

They were ready for revenge. And an early Kazakhstan goal did nothing to shake their confidence.

"Fifteen seconds in they scored and we were still positive, no one was hanging their head. We were confident," said Bloodoff.

Canada promptly rattled off three unanswered first-period goals en route to a 6-2 victory.

Peters finished with 19 saves. Bloodoff, Tanaka and D'Orazio each ended up with an assist.

Speaking on Monday night, Bloodoff was still trying to absorb the achievement.

He was already looking forward to sharing it with his teammates, who he had met for Christmas dinner at Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg's home.

"It took so much to win, to achieve something like that," said Bloodoff. "First of all, we were able to come together in such a short amount of time and become so close. I've never seen so many blocked shots before; I never seen so many guys willing to sacrifice anything to win, I feel so lucky to have gone through it and I get to share it with the guys."

"It's so special, it's just really hard to put it into words... Pretty incredible, that's for sure. It just hasn't settled in yet."

Rainmen stuck in another skid

The Halifax Rainmen can add one more loss to their dismal record.

The Rainmen returned home from a three-game Ontario road swing with just losses to show for it.

After dropping two previous games to the London Lightning and Windsor Express on Thursday and Fri-

day, the Rainmen faced their biggest test against the first-place 15-5 Brampton A's, and fell well short in a 107-92 defeat on Monday night.

The Rainmen got off to a miserable start, falling behind 25-12 after the first quarter. And, after outscoring the A's 59-52 in the second and third quarters, the Rain-

On Monday

107

A's

92

Rainmen

men fell apart in crunch

time, and the A's powered their way to victory, outscoring the visitors 30-21 in the final quarter.

The Rainmen didn't help themselves, either, going 4-15 from beyond the arc and making just 13 of 26 free-throw attempts.

With the loss, the Rainmen fall to 2-14 and remain

last in the National Basketball League of Canada standings.

Brampton's Scottie Harrison led all scorers with 20 points while Jason Williams and Raven Barber paced Halifax with 15 points each.

The Rainmen hit the road again to take on the Island Storm on Boxing Day.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Leafs go into Christmas break cold



Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier prepares for a shot from Rangers forward Rick Nash on Monday night at Madison Square Garden. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Bernier gives his best, but Buds fall to Rangers in shootout

The New York Rangers escaped with two points they believed they deserved even though they gave up a goal they felt the Toronto Maple Leafs didn't earn.

Mats Zuccarello and Derek Stepan scored shootout goals, and backup goalie Cam Talbot earned his second win in two nights as the Rangers shook off a late tying tally and beat the Maple Leafs 2-1 Monday night.

The game was forced into overtime because of Nazem Kadri's goal with 1:24 left in regulation — one the Rangers thought shouldn't have counted.

After a wraparound attempt, David Clarkson took two whacks at the puck at the right post, and Talbot appeared to cover it, but Kadri came in and poked it in under Talbot's pad.

The NHL reviewed it in To-

ronto and said the goal should stand.

"In my opinion, that was the wrong call," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "The referee told Brad (Richards) on the ice that if they didn't score on the wraparound, then it wasn't a goal. They didn't score on the wraparound."

"The puck was underneath Cam's pad. How (the reviewers) saw it differently, I'm not quite sure. You've just got to play through those things, and that's what we did."

The Rangers held off the Maple Leafs in a spirited overtime that produced several scoring chances and then outlasted them in the shootout.

Zuccarello and Stepan scored in the first two rounds, and Talbot stopped Kadri in the third to end it. Joffrey Lupul was the only Toronto player to score in the tiebreaker.

Talbot was relieved the Rangers pulled out the victory.

"I would have been pretty devastated, especially with the game we played," he said. "We deserved to win the game, and to get a goal like that against us

On Monday

2

Rangers

1

Maple Leafs

could have really hurt us, but we kind of let it go, pushed forward."

Jonathan Bernier was exceptional for Toronto, making 42 saves through overtime and allowing only J.T. Miller's goal 7:04 into the third period. The Maple Leafs played their third straight shootout and lost for the second consecutive time. They are 2-5-2 in their last nine.

"We played a very solid road game," Toronto captain Dion Phaneuf said. "It was very good to get a point."

Talbot, starting over slumping No. 1 netminder Henrik Lundqvist for the second straight game, bounced back from the late goal and improved to 8-2 in his first NHL season. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World juniors

Drouin, Horvat, McDavid help Canada top Swiss

Jonathan Drouin scored twice to lead Canada's national junior hockey squad to a 4-1 exhibition win over Switzerland on Monday.

It was the final tune-up for Canada, which opens the world junior tournament Thursday against Germany.

Canada finished with a 2-1 exhibition record but was coming off a 3-0 loss to Sweden on Sunday.

Bo Horvat and Connor McDavid had the other goals for Canada. Jake Paterson stopped 23 shots in goal.

Yannick Rathgeb replied for Switzerland while Melvin Nyffeler made 29 saves.

Rathgeb opened the scoring on the power play just 1:21 into the first period. But Drouin countered with power-play goals at 15:31 and 17:02 to put Canada ahead to stay.

Horvat scored short-handed at 19:51 of the second before McDavid rounded out the scoring at 4:38 of the third.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL. 49ers clinch playoff berth in Candlestick's regular-season finale

In one emphatic finish, NaVorro Bowman, Colin Kaepernick and the San Francisco 49ers sealed their post-season berth in a celebratory regular-season finale at Candlestick Park.

Bowman returned an interception 89 yards for a touchdown with 1:10 remaining, and the 49ers clinched a playoff berth with a wild 34-24 victory against the Atlanta Falcons on Monday night that likely was the final game at San Francisco's longtime home.

Tramaine Brock broke up a pass intended for Harry Douglas and Bowman got his hands on the ball and took off. He was joined in the end zone by his teammates for a jubilant dog pile.

"I always say a lot of plays are made when you run to the ball," Bowman said. "That's all I was doing was just running to the ball, trying to make a tackle, and it popped up and I was able to make a play for my team."

Matt Ryan threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to Roddy White with 8:42 remaining and a two-yard score to Tony Gonzalez with 2:09 left as the Falcons (4-11) made things interesting until the end.



Anquan Boldin of the 49ers catches a pass over the Falcons' Robert McClain on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Atlanta's Jason Snelling recovered the ensuing outside kick as the Falcons got the ball back and were driving for a potential go-ahead score when San Francisco (11-4) capitalized with one of its biggest take-aways yet.

Kaepernick ran for a four-yard touchdown and threw a 10-yard TD pass to Anquan Boldin, and Frank Gore had a one-yard touchdown run as the 49ers used a big second half to clinch a third straight playoff season and fifth consecutive victory. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	37	25	10	2	106	77	52
Tampa Bay	37	23	11	3	106	87	49
Montreal	38	22	13	3	96	84	47
Detroit	39	17	13	9	99	108	43
Toronto	39	18	16	5	106	113	41
Ottawa	39	15	17	7	111	126	37
Florida	38	14	19	5	88	123	33
Buffalo	37	10	24	3	66	105	23

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	39	27	11	1	121	88	55
Washington	37	19	14	4	117	112	42
Philadelphia	37	17	16	4	93	104	38
NY Rangers	38	18	18	2	88	102	38
New Jersey	38	15	16	7	92	99	37
Columbus	37	16	17	4	101	106	36
Carolina	37	14	15	8	86	105	36
NY Islanders	38	11	20	7	96	129	29

Monday's results

NY Rangers 2 Toronto 1 (SO)
Ottawa 5 Pittsburgh 0
NY Islanders 3 Detroit 0
Tampa Bay 6 Florida 1
Anaheim 3 Washington 2
Columbus 4 Carolina 3
Buffalo 2 Phoenix 1 (OT)
Philadelphia 4 Minnesota 1
Chicago 5 New Jersey 2
Boston 6 Nashville 2

Calgary 4 St. Louis 3 (SO)

Edmonton 6 Winnipeg 2
Dallas at Los Angeles
Colorado at San Jose

Sunday's results

NY Rangers 4 Minnesota 1
Vancouver 2 Winnipeg 1
Friday's games
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Columbus at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	39	26	7	6	145	107	58
St. Louis	36	24	7	5	128	85	53
Colorado	35	23	10	2	102	83	48
Minnesota	39	20	14	5	88	96	45
Dallas	35	17	12	6	101	105	40
Winnipeg	39	16	18	5	103	116	37
Nashville	37	16	17	4	85	109	36

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	39	27	7	5	127	98	59
Los Angeles	37	25	8	4	104	71	54
San Jose	36	22	8	6	116	90	50
Vancouver	39	22	11	6	106	93	50
Phoenix	36	19	10	7	111	110	45
Calgary	37	14	17	6	95	118	34
Edmonton	39	12	24	3	101	135	27

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

Saturday's games

Detroit at Florida, 7 p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	20	34	54
Kane, Chi	21	27	48
Getzlaf, Ana	19	24	43
Ovechkin, Wash	30	11	41
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Backstrom, Wash	8	33	41
Perry, Ana	22	18	40
Kunitz, Pgh	20	19	39
Steen, STL	24	14	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Thornton, SJ	5	32	37
Seguin, Dal	18	17	35
Marleau, SJ	16	19	35
Sharp, Chi	16	18	34
St. Louis, TBL	15	19	34
Karlsson, Ott	9	25	34
Kessel, Tor	17	16	33
Duchene, Col	16	17	33

Monday's games not included

NFL

WEEK 16

Monday's result

San Francisco 34 Atlanta 24

Sunday's results

Cincinnati 42 Minnesota 14
N.Y. Jets 24 Cleveland 13
Denver 37 Houston 13
Indianapolis 23 Kansas City 7
St. Louis 23 Tampa Bay 13
Buffalo 19 Miami 0
Tennessee 20 Jacksonville 16
Dallas 24 Washington 23
Carolina 17 New Orleans 13
N.Y. Giants 23 Detroit 20 (OT)
Arizona 17 Seattle 10
Pittsburgh 38 Green Bay 31
New England 41 Baltimore 7
San Diego 26 Oakland 13
Philadelphia 54 Chicago 11

NBA

Monday's results

Charlotte 111 Milwaukee 110 (OT)
New York 103 Orlando 98
Detroit 115 Cleveland 92
Indiana 103 Brooklyn 86
Memphis 104 Utah 94
Dallas 111 Houston 104
Miami 122 Atlanta 121 (OT)
San Antonio 112 Toronto 99
Golden State 89 Denver 81
Phoenix 117 L.A. Lakers 90
New Orleans at Sacramento

Sunday's results

Indiana 106 Boston 79
Toronto 104 Oklahoma City 98
L.A. Clippers 120 Minnesota 116 (OT)

Wednesday's games

Chicago at Brooklyn, noon
Oklahoma City at New York, 2:30 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 5 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
Atlanta at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

based on automatic/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022/2023/2024/2025/2026/2027/2028/2029/2030/2031/2032/2033/2034/2035/2036/2037/2038/2039/2040/2041/2042/2043/2044/2045/2046/2047/2048/2049/2050/2051/2052/2053/2054/2055/2056/2057/2058/2059/2060/2061/2062/2063/2064/2065/2066/2067/2068/2069/2070/2071/2072/2073/2074/2075/2076/2077/2078/2079/2080/2081/2082/2083/2084/2085/2086/2087/2088/2089/2090/2091/2092/2093/2094/2095/2096/2097/2098/2099/2100/2101/2102/2103/2104/2105/2106/2107/2108/2109/2110/2111/2112/2113/2114/2115/2116/2117/2118/2119/2120/2121/2122/2123/2124/2125/2126/2127/2128/2129/2130/2131/2132/2133/2134/2135/2136/2137/2138/2139/2140/2141/2142/2143/2144/2145/2146/2147/2148/2149/2150/2151/2152/2153/2154/2155/2156/2157/2158/2159/2160/2161/2162/2163/2164/2165/2166/2167/2168/2169/2170/2171/2172/2173/2174/2175/2176/2177/2178/2179/2180/2181/2182/2183/2184/2185/2186/2187/2188/2189/2190/2191/2192/2193/2194/2195/2196/2197/2198/2199/2200/2201/2202/2203/2204/2205/2206/2207/2208/2209/2210/2211/2212/2213/2214/2215/2216/2217/2218/2219/2220/2221/2222/2223/2224/2225/2226/2227/2228/2229/2230/2231/2232/2233/2234/2235/2236/2237/2238/2239/2240/2241/2242/2243/2244/2245/2246/2247/2248/2249/2250/2251/2252/2253/2254/2255/2256/2257/2258/2259/2260/2261/2262/2263/2264/2265/2266/2267/2268/2269/2270/2271/2272/2273/2274/2275/2276/2277/2278/2279/2280/2281/2282/2283/2284/2285/2286/2287/2288/2289/2290/2291/2292/2293/2294/2295/2296/2297/2298/2299/2300/2301/2302/2303/2304/2305/2306/2307/2308/2309/2310/2311/2312/2313/2314/2315/2316/2317/2318/2319/2320/2321/2322/2323/2324/2325/2326/2327/2328/2329/2330/2331/2332/2333/2334/2335/2336/2337/2338/2339/2340/2341/2342/2343/2344/2345/2346/2347/2348/2349/2350/2351/2352/2353/2354/2355/2356/2357/2358/2359/2360/2361/2362/2363/2364/2365/2366/2367/2368/2369/2370/2371/2372/2373/2374/2375/2376/2377/2378/2379/2380/2381/2382/2383/2384/2385/2386/2387/2388/2389/2390/2391/2392/2393/2394/2395/2396/2397/2398/2399/2400/2401/2402/2403/2404/2405/2406/2407/2408/2409/2410/2411/2412/2413/2414/2415/2416/2417/2418/2419/2420/2421/2422/2423/2424/2425/2426/2427/2428/2429/2430/2431/2432/2433/2434/2435/2436/2437/2438/2439/2440/2441/2442/2443/2444/2445/2446/2447/2448/2449/2450/2451/2452/2453/2454/2455/2456/2457/2458/2459/2460/2461/2462/2463/2464/2465/2466/2467/2468/2469/2470/2471/2472/2473/2474/2475/2476/2477/2478/2479/2480/2481/2482/2483/2484/2485/2486/2487/2488/2489/2490/2491/2492/2493/2494/2495/2496/2497/2498/2499/2500/2501/2502/2503/2504/2505/2506/2507/2508/2509/2510/2511/2512/2513/2514/2515/2516/2517/2518/2519/2520/2521/2522/2523/2524/2525/2526/2527/2528/2529/2530/2531/2532/2533/2534/2535/2536/2537/2538/2539/2540/2541/2542/2543/2544/2545/2546/2547/2548/2549/2550/2551/2552/2553/2554/2555/2556/2557/2558/2559/2560/2561/2562/2563/2564/2565/2566/2567/2568/2569/2570/2571/2572/2573/2574/2575/2576/2577/2578/2579/2580/2581/2582/2583/2584/2585/2586/2587/2588/2589/2590/2591/2592/2593/2594/2595/2596/2597/2598/2599/2600/2601/2602/2603/2604/2605/2606/2607/2608/2609/2610/2611/2612/2613/2614/2615/2616/2617/2618/2619/2620/2621/2622/2623/2624/2625/2626/2627/2628/2629/2630/2631/2632/2633/2634/2635/2636/2637/2638/2639/2640/2641/2642/2643/2644/2645/2646/2647/2648/2649/2650/2651/2652/2653/2654/2655/2656/2657/2658/2659/2660/2661/2662/2663/2664/2665/2666/2667/2668/2669/2670/2671/2672/2673/2674/2675/2676/2677/2678/2679/2680/2681/2682/2683/2684/2685/2686/2687/2688/2689/2690/2691/2692/2693/2694/2695/2696/2697/2698/2699/2700/2701/2702/2703/2704/2705/2706/2707/2708/2709/2710/2711/2712/2713/2714/2715/2716/2717/2718/2719/2720/2721/2722/2723/2724/2725/2726/2727/2728/2729/2730/2731/2732/2733/2734/2735/2736/2737/2738/2739/2740/2741/2742/2743/2744/2745/2746/2747/2748/2749/2750/2751/2752/2753/2754/2755/2756/2757/2758/2759/2760/2761/2762/2763/2764/2765/2766/2767/2768/2769/2770/2771/2772/2773/2774/2775/2776/2777/2778/2779/2780/2781/2782/2783/2784/2785/2786/2787/2788/2789/2790/2791/2792/2793/2794/2795/2796/2797/2798/2799/2800/2801/2802/2803/2804/2805/2806/2807/2808/2809/2810/2811/2812/2813/2814/2815/2816/2817/2818/2819/2820/2821/2822/2823/2824/2825/2826/2827/2828/2829/283



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Price for 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown: \$34,390.⁵

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Price for 2013 Dodge Dart GT with optional equipment shown: \$23,295.⁵

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Buick Regal could rule the roads



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 Buick Regal. One step closer to being first choice over a Euro sedan instead of an alternative

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

The Euro-inspired, North America-built Buick Regal represents a significant shift in thinking for General Motors' entry-premium division.

Since its 2012-model-year arrival, the Regal has dared to challenge similar BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi offerings. It has also become a viable alternative for mid-size entry-luxury buyers, regardless of national origin. Along with the subsequent introduction of the smaller Verano sedan and even smaller Encore wagon, Buick has likely left the dwindling knot of traditional Buick buyers wondering what has become of their cherished brand.

Inside, the reshaped dashboard has a 4.2-inch (10.7 centimetre) display screen between the dual gauge pods that shows basic vehicle info. In addition, a new eight-inch (20-centimetre) touch screen for the climate, navigation, communications and infotainment systems can also be operated through steering-wheel controls.

Under the hood has been simplified. Previously, you could pick between the base turbo-charged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine with 220 horsepower and 258-pound-feet of torque, and a version that made 270 horsepower and 270 pound-feet of torque (the GS

model). Newly optional for turbo models is an all-wheel-drive system that in normal driving splits the torque equally between the front and rear tires, but can deploy up to 90 per cent to the rears when the front wheels start to lose traction. AWD is not offered for the optional (and non-turbo-charged) 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine that combines with a 15-horsepower electric motor and lithium-ion battery pack to make 182 horsepower and 172 pound-feet of torque.

The partial-hybrid system, called eAssist, controls the car's stop-start function to conserve fuel at stoplights and in stop-and-go traffic. The eAssist also kicks in when the Regal is accelerating, but unlike a "full hybrid" powertrain, the electric motor never operates independently of the gas engine. A six-speed automatic is the sole eAssist transmission choice.

The AWD option allows the Regal to keep up with the changing times and the competition, as does the availability of camera-based blind-spot warning and cross-traffic alerts, the latter of which points out traffic that's crossing into your back-up path. There's also forward-collision warning that lets you know when you're too close to traffic in front.

Regal shoppers can choose from base, Premium I, Premium II and GS models. For \$34,800 (including destination charges), the base car arrives with a considerable load of gear, including dual-zone climate control, leather seat covers (heated in front), 12-way power driver's seat and an elec-

2014 Buick Regal

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (259); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (182)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic; six-speed manual (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$34,800

Design

For the 2014 model year, the Regal receives mid-production cycle adjustments that begin with front and rear restyling, including a more prominent grille plus new front and rear LED lighting.

Fuel economy

For 2014, it's down to a single turbo engine pegged at 259 horsepower and a stout 295 pound-feet. It's rated at 10.1 l/100 km in the city and 6.6 on the highway with the six-speed automatic transmission, and 10.2/6.3 with the six-speed manual (available only with the GS).



The Buick's interface can change depending on what you want to know.

tric parking brake. Other items, such as a power sunroof, navigation with rear-vision camera and an up-level nine-speaker Bose-brand sound system, are added as you move up the trim levels.

At the GS plateau, the standard-equipment list encompasses unique front- and rear-end designs, aero side cladding and rear spoiler, and available 20-inch wheels (19-inchers are standard GS fare, while 17s come on eAssist models). GS

models also arrive with larger Brembo-brand front brakes, sport suspension setup and a selectable GS sport mode that increases steering effort, firms up the shock damping and alters the transmission shift points for more spirited driving. Anyway you slice it, the Regal's broader appeal and competitive price tag places it in a closer league with its European and North American mid-size sedan rivals and is a real feather in Buick's cap.

Compare



1 Acura TL
Base price: \$42,000



2 Cadillac ATS
Base price: \$37,000



3 Volvo S60
Base price: \$40,850

5 DRIVE

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA



Outdoor protection

The inventors of CarCapsule now make a similar model for outdoor use. This extra durable version's 12-volt high-pressure fan with its washable filter keeps the CarCapsule inflated and the "Evaporative Storage System" changes the inside air three to four times per hour to eliminate moisture from condensing on the vehicle. The 18 by 6.5 by 5.7-foot (5.5 by 2.0- by 1.7-metre) sells for \$679 US. Order at carcapsule.com.



Won't kick the bucket

Washing and waxing the family bus can be a pain with all that bending and stooping for the bucket. The Bucket Taxi is designed to keep the soapy contents of your bucket close at hand and it's on wheels so you can move it exactly where it's needed without lifting. Pick up the Bucket Taxi for \$60 US at buckettaxi.com.



Star cars in one spot

A company with the offbeat name of Calm The Ham has created a unique 24 by 36-inch poster entitled Filmography of Cars. Among its 71 illustrations it features the 1958 Plymouth Fury from the movie Christine and the 1932 Ford hot rod from American Graffiti. Filmography of Cars sells for \$44 US at calmtheham.com.

Staying safe on roads this festive season

Driving Force. First and foremost consider all the elements and pay specific attention to tire traction and speed

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

In winter weather, you're always being told to "drive for the conditions." But do you know exactly what that means, and how to stay safe?

"You need to consider snow, ice, slush, darkness, traffic, glare, and how your car responds to cold," says Scott Marshall, director of training for Young Drivers of Canada. "You're not going to have the traction, nor will the drivers around you, so don't put your life in the hands of the driver next to you." Whenever possible, don't stay alongside other vehicles, but drive in a staggered formation. That way, if a driver nearby slides and fishtails, there's far less chance you'll get hit.

Posted speed limits are for ideal conditions, which means on dry roads and with good visibility. Any time that's not the case, reduce your speed. If you're on the highway and you have to drive very slowly to feel safe, get off and take a lower-speed road.

Braking distance gets much longer the faster you're going, and it will take even longer to stop on slippery roads. "The first mistake people make is judging their following distances in car lengths, instead of time," Marshall says. "When the car



Expect the unexpected and make sure you don't get stranded. FORD



Always consider the elements and lower your speed. CHRYSLER



Above, Blake as a happy 7 year-old.
Now you know where homeless adults can come from.

(Blake, currently homeless)



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Tips

- **Kit.** Keep a personal kit in your car, including gloves, hat, emergency candle with lighter, and non-perishable food items. Women who wear high heels should pack a pair of flat-heeled boots.
- **Cleanliness.** Always clean all the snow off your car completely before driving, including all windows, headlights, and taillights.
- **Washer fluid.** Carry an extra jug of washer fluid in your vehicle at all times.

in front passes something like a light pole, start counting. In normal conditions in the city, you should be two seconds from the driver ahead. Highway speed is three seconds, and once you add slippery conditions, you need to increase that significantly."

Winter tires always give you better traction, even on dry roads, any time the thermometer falls below 7C. At that temperature, their softer compound means they're better able to grip the road than all-season tires. Checking the tire pressure regularly will also ensure that the tires can do their job properly.

If there's a snow plow in front of you, stay at least 7 meters (25 feet) behind it. "Give them a chance to clear the road," Marshall says. Be careful crossing any snow windows the plow leaves behind, since they will affect your control.

Should the weather be really bad, stay home if you can. If you're on the highway and run into bad conditions, get off at the next exit and look for someplace to wait it out, such as a restaurant or hotel. "Being on the shoulder of the highway is not the safest place to stop and wait for a few hours," Marshall says. "Don't get stranded."

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ON TOP WHERE IT BELONGS



The 2014 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28

Dream Car Put together from existing parts, it's a true hotrod Camaro built for the speed lovers

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

You would think that the most expensive street-legal Camaro coupe ever made would at least include air conditioning, a fancy stereo, power-adjustable seats and possibly a competition-beating supercharged engine.

But that's not the case with the Z/28, a designation that conjures up images of high-winding, race-bred Camaros dating back to 1967. However, you likely won't hear any price complaints from eager buyers who are expected to gobble up the first year's production run of 1,500 vehicles as fast as they depart the factory floor beginning in early 2014.

Although more than capable on the street, the "Z" was really created (or re-created, since the Z/28 label along with the previous-generation Camaro were retired after the 2002 model year) to perform in stellar fashion in competition. For drivers who would rather put in some fast laps around the racetrack than putt their way around a golf course on weekends, this is the Camaro of their dreams.

For such a low-volume model, Chevy's engineers invested considerable time and effort to ensure the Z/28 will live up to its past glory and lay a beating on high-priced competitors. Part of that process included pruning some weight, including the deletion of the power-seat adjusters, eliminating the rear-seat frame and trunk pass-through structure, installing thinner rear window glass and transferring the air conditioning unit over to the options list.

Additionally, Chevrolet has reduced the wheel diameter to 19 inches from the 20-inch units used on the Camaro SS 1LE track car and ZL1 models, thus eliminating 18.6 kilograms in unsprung weight while lowering the car's centre of gravity.

Overall, the Z/28 weighs about 135 kilograms less than the ZL1 model — the heaviest Camaro, by the way — that runs with a supercharged 6.2-litre V8 rated at 580 horsepower and 556 pound-feet of torque. The Z/28 actually weighs



Satisfy your primal automotive desires in the very pacy Z/28, and all for \$70K. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE



The Z/28 omits some standard creature comforts in the interest of saving weight, such as air conditioning, which is optional.

about the same as a base V8 Camaro.

To do this, the car instead borrows the 2013 Chevrolet Corvette Z06's high-revving 7.0-litre non-supercharged V8 engine that makes 505 horsepower and 481 pound-feet of torque. Without a supercharger, the 7.0 weighs 29 kilograms less than the 6.2 engine found in the Camaro ZL1.

As with the Z06, the Z/28 uses a dry-sump oil system (a 10-litre remote tank instead of the usual oil pan) to ensure a continuous oil stream

to all vital components during high-speed manoeuvres.

As well, engine and transmission/differential oil coolers reduce heat build-up and aid reliability when these components are pushed to the max. This is also good insurance since the Z/28's powertrain warranty also covers extracurricular track use.

What the Z/28 does share with its ZL1 counterpart is a close-ratio six-speed manual transmission that, like the car's extra-stiff suspension and unique shock dampers,



The Z/28's engine is the 505-horsepower LS7 7.0-litre (427-cubic-inch)

has been beefed up for the rigours of track duty.

Numerically, the Z/28 falls short of the ZL1 in terms of raw horsepower and torque, but the Z/28 is likely much quicker around a racetrack, simply because it's built more for that purpose.

Along with its reduced heft over the ZL1, the Z/28 features plenty of race-bred tricks up its sleeves. Aerodynamic upgrades include a lower chin spoiler (called a splitter), front and rear fender flares, rocker

panel moldings and a hood vent for ducting otherwise trapped air from the engine compartment. As well, an aggressively shaped rear spoiler improves high-speed stability and cornering speed, aided by a set of sticky Pirelli PZero Trofeo R-compound tires mounted to 11-inch-wide alloy wheels in front and 11.5-inches in back. The tires — more than a foot wide — are the same on all four corners.

Chevrolet claims that the Z/28 produces 1.05 g's in cornering grip and an

2014 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28

- **Type.** Two-door, rear-wheel-drive coupe
- **Engines (hp).** 7.0-litre OHV V8 (505)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$70,000

equal amount of braking force, thanks to the fade-free Brembo-brand carbon-ceramic brakes that weigh considerably less than comparable iron rotors.

The Z/28's interior is just as go-fast-focused as the rest of the car. There's a flat-bottomed steering wheel and Recaro racing-style seats with grippy suede-covered bottoms and cutouts for installation of an aftermarket five-point racing harness.

Clearly, this extra-special Camaro isn't your average grocery getter or stoplight poseur. It's built for drivers who can afford to drop an estimated \$70,000 for a car with everything an enthusiast needs to exercise his or her need for speed.

For those without a Metro, the forecast calls for "I dunno" with a slight chance of "huhhh?"



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Something you have been working on for a long time will bear fruit today. Others may say you've been lucky but the fact is you have laboured long and hard to get this far.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You will handle everything life throws at you with grace and style. The planets endow you with limitless self-confidence and the kind of faith that moves mountains.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You will have to take on new responsibilities over the next few days, including some of a financial nature. Show the world you have what it takes to handle difficult situations.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Although the sun in Capricorn brings partnership problems to the fore, Mercury in your opposite sign will make it easier for you to see things from the other person's point of view.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Matters of a routine nature will take up a lot of time but once you have completed your tasks you can move on to something more interesting. Whatever else you do today, don't cut corners.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

This should be a productive day for you — you will get a lot done in a short space of time. Make the most of it because as you move into the New Year not everything will come quite so easily.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Partners and colleagues will demand more of your time and attention today and if you are smart you will give it to them.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You will get the chance to move up in the world in some way over the next few days and even though your mind may be on other things you must grab the opportunity.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Money matters must come first today and with Mercury joining the sun in the main financial area of your chart you will get the chance to balance the books.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Decide what is the most important thing you should be doing right now and do it to the exclusion of all else. Your efforts will not be wasted.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

What happens today will convince you that life is good and about to get even better. The only reason that your thoughts have been so negative of late is because you have allowed your emotions to blot out common sense. Time to rebalance.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

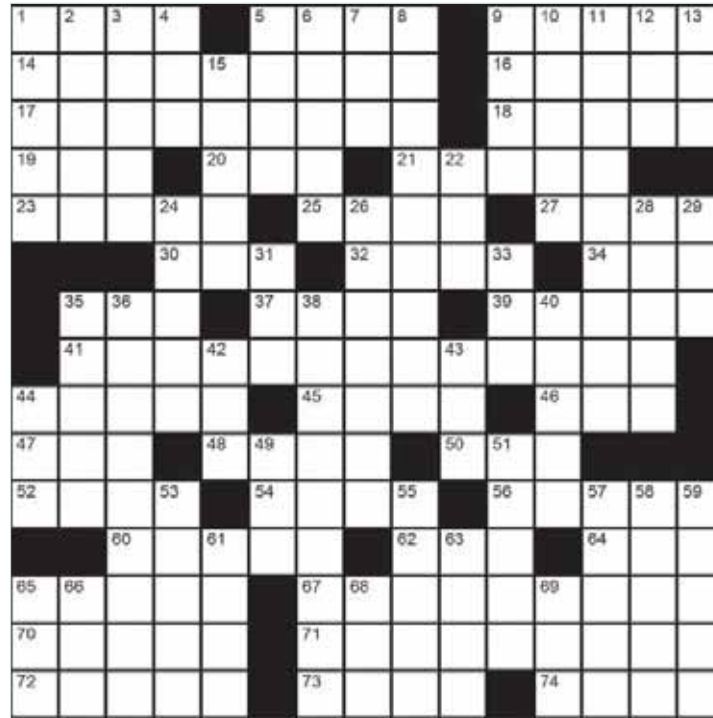
Try not to get too emotionally involved in other people's problems. Life is full of ups and downs, and so a more light-hearted approach from you today will be an example for them to follow.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. "Hush! I ___ the phone!"
5. Gentle
9. "___ Old St. Nicholas"
14. Artist's work
16. Grow like ___
17. Saint-Jean-sur-___, Quebec
18. Distributes
19. Pitcher's stat.
20. ___ mode
21. Pancake dish of Russia
23. Mailing enclosures, commonly
25. Nero's 651
27. Poinsettia part
30. Texter's "incidentally"
32. Jump
34. ___ Cone
35. Overseas MTV honour (acronym)
37. Alum
39. Barbera's cartooning partner
41. The Huron Carol bit: "That mighty ___ / Sent angel choirs instead."
44. Via ship: 2 wds.
45. Singer/songwriter Marvin
46. Prefix to "light"
47. Appropriate
48. Thailand currency
50. Premium car
52. French for "here and there": Ici ___
54. Ancient portico
56. Distressed cries



60. Saskatchewan village between Regina and Saskatoon
62. American ailer since '71
64. Furrow-maker
65. Helicopter part
67. Ontario community east of London
70. Satire

71. Where Canada is trying to lay territorial claim, as in recent headlines: 2 wds.
72. Holiday hue
73. Fellows
74. Belonging to an undercover agent

Down

1. ___ski

2. Ballerina/actress Ms. Shearer of The Red Shoes (1948)
3. Killer whales
4. To the ___ power
5. Richard of Night Court
6. Ancient tale
7. Prevarication
8. ___ Canada (Book publisher)

9. Actress Ms. Gertz
10. Buck of Hee Haw
11. "Oh, the weather outside is frightful..." Christmas carol: 3 wds.
12. Jeans brand
13. Li'l length units
15. Spread
22. Irish coronation stone, ___ Fail

24. Online retail discount
26. Mott's beverage
28. Boredom
29. Bygone bird
31. Early 1920s President [monogram]
33. ___ Beta Kappa
35. The Prince of ___ (1998)
36. Festive foliage
38. Position in hockey: 2 wds.
40. When management might return from lunch, ___
42. Music legend Mr. Calloway
43. Bird bill
44. UK defence contractor, ___ Systems
49. Mount ___ (Volcano of Japan)
51. Frankincense and ___
53. Solo
55. Furious
57. ___ it up (Celebrate)
58. Candy-on-a-stick
59. Monica of tennis
61. Welsh opera singer Mr. Terfel
63. Furry friends
65. Semi
66. Hockey Hall of Famer
68. ___ Turn (Road sign)
69. Madonna's first hubby ... his initials-sharers

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

Yesterday's Crossword

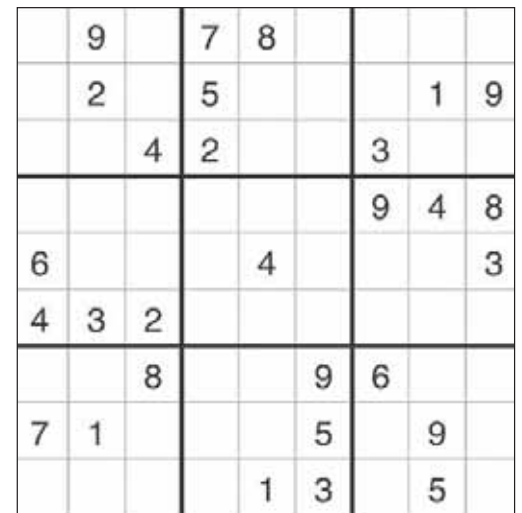


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

1°/-11°

Flurries

60%

Wednesday

-4°/-12°

Flurries

70%

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